



## Meet your new Council Member



Lynn Forkell Greene was sworn in as the newest City Council member on Nov. 8. She was elected to fill the unexpired term of Michelle Davis-Younger, who became Mayor in January of this year. Forkell Greene's term ends on Dec. 31, 2022.

Forkell Greene is a Manassas native and previously served on the Parks and Recreation Committee and as Chair of the Keep Manassas Beautiful Advisory Committee. She is a project manager for a global services firm where she focuses on providing project, business administration, and research support.

She and her husband Rich have four adult children and one granddaughter, including one daughter who is a Manassas City Public School teacher. Welcome Lynn!

## What's going on with Grant Avenue?

The waterline replacement project that is causing lane closures on Grant Avenue will have big benefits for the City.

The long-planned project is increasing the size of the watermain, which will enable more water to get through to customers, increase the reliability of water service, and provide better fire protection for the City. The new watermain should be complete in March or April of 2022.

Crews will also begin to move overhead electrical lines underground beginning in the spring or summer. The Grant Avenue undergrounding project will make the lines less susceptible to weather and tree damage that can cause power outages.

Both projects will lay the groundwork for the Grant Avenue Streetscape Capital Improvement Project that will create an appealing gateway to the City's historic downtown. The final plan, completed in 2017, includes lane reductions between Prince William Street and Wellington Road to create a safer space for pedestrians and cyclists, and more green space that will make the southern end of Grant Avenue. The project's design is complete and bidding should begin in the spring.

Visit [www.manassasva.gov/grantave](http://www.manassasva.gov/grantave) for more information on the Grant Avenue projects.



Rendering of how Grant Avenue will look when the streetscape is completed.



# A Moment with the Mayor



**Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger**

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! I am so excited for all of the holiday events that we have coming up in the City this month.

Not to mention our visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus to kick off the month. The beautiful decorations and lights that will be displayed throughout the City (especially in Historic Downtown) makes the season even more special.

I am looking forward to family gatherings, especially now that my granddaughter Maddie will really understand what Christmas is all about and the joy of the season. Please take time to share a gift or donate some time to help out those in your neighborhood with snow shoveling (you know it's coming), particularly if you have elderly neighbors. Having my parents living with me gives me peace of mind as I couldn't imagine them trying to take care of snow shoveling on their own. You can also volunteer at a local shelter, or whatever activity that helps out our

community. Let's continue to show kindness and take care of one another in true Manassas style!

This month, I will complete my first year as your Mayor and I can truly say that I am thankful for the opportunity to serve. I hope that you all have had as much fun as I have getting to know each other and spending time together in the community. It is an honor and privilege to serve and I do not take it for granted. I will always have the success of this City first and foremost in my thoughts and will continue to serve to make this the best place to live, work, play and raise a family!

Wishing you all the very best holiday season! Enjoy!

## Who's Moving Where?



### Planning & Community Development

- building & zoning permits
- long range planning

Customer Service Center  
9800 Godwin Drive



**NOW  
OPEN**



### Commissioner of the Revenue

- business licenses & taxes
- real estate & personal property taxes



### Treasurer

- tax payments
- parking permits



### City Clerk, Mayor & City Council

- elected officials
- clerk links citizens, officials & boards
- public records & proclamations

Piedmont Building  
9324 West St



### Economic Development

- business incentives
- training assistance



### Communications

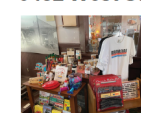
- newsletter
- social media & website



### Museum

- museum closes for renovation Dec. 19
- Echoes store open at Depot

Store Open at Depot  
9431 West St.



# A Message from the City Manager



**City Manager**  
**W. Patrick Pate**

I am amazed that 2021 is already coming to a close. Time is clearly marching on, whether we are paying attention or not! I hope that you are paying attention and enjoying the holiday season with all of the amazing holiday decorations that we see, particularly in Manassas.

As we prepare for a new year, we also often find ourselves with some additional changes at the City. One change has been the election of a new Council Member. Lynn Forkell Greene was selected in a special election to fill the remaining year of an unexpired council term. Since this was a special election, Ms. Greene was sworn into office at the first regular Council meeting following the certification of the election on Nov. 8. I can tell you that she has already been very busy getting up to speed on the many aspects of serving as a Council Member.

After the first of the year we will also welcome a new Commissioner of Revenue, Tim Demeria, and Patricia Richie-Folks will return for another four years as Treasurer. Tim will need no introduction to the community having served for 15 years on the School Board including 4 years as School Board Chair. He has lived in the community for more than 40 years.

This also means that our current Commissioner of Revenue, Doug Waldron, will be retiring from his position at the end of December. Doug

has a long history of public service to Manassas including elected roles as School Board Member, Council Member, Mayor and Commissioner of Revenue. Doug became Commissioner only a couple of months after I became City Manager and we have worked together in these roles over the past eight years. He has been very proud of the efforts of his Office to provide fair assessments that are validated by sales ratio data, helping businesses with obtaining proper City licenses and assisting residents with personal property assessment questions. I appreciate the commitment Doug has shown to provide professional and transparent services in the Commissioner's Office.

In Virginia, jurisdictions like Manassas are classified as an independent city. This means that, unlike towns, our residents are not part of another County jurisdiction (for census purposes we are considered our own County). Thus, it might seem odd for me to tell you that I also want to talk about City/County relations. While the City of Manassas and Prince William County do not technically share any residents, our residents share our jurisdictions.

It is seen in our shared Constitutional Officers of Sheriff, Commonwealth Attorney and Clerk of Court. It is also seen in provided services where we share services including the Courts, the Regional Jail, the Area Agency on Aging (Senior Center) and Community Services Board. We share mutual aid agreements with Fire and Rescue Services and Police. The City contracts with Prince William County for services such as libraries, Fire and Rescue Dispatch and Public Health. There is a large number of residents who travel between the jurisdictions for work, entertainment, restaurants or shopping. We may be "independent" but we are also very interconnected which makes City/County relations an important issue.

I share this because County Executive, Chris Martino is retiring at the end of this month. Chris was a Deputy County Executive when I came to Manassas and was named County Executive a few years later. During

that time Chris and I have worked on a variety of issues that mutually benefit our communities, including economic development, library services, transportation, planning and other service efficiencies or enhancements. We have also served together on a variety of regional and local boards promoting our mutual interests. I have appreciated his financial acumen, professionalism and willingness to work to find solutions even when our jurisdictions came at issues from different perspectives. I wish him well in retirement and look forward to a continued positive relationship with his successor.

I hope that you will join me in thanking these individuals who are taking on new roles of public servant and also thank those individuals who you know who have served in a position of public trust. They are all working to serve our community.

As we head into 2022, as is my family tradition, let me wish you a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

*W. Patrick Pate*

MAY THE SPIRIT  
OF THE SEASON  
BRING YOU JOY  
AND PEACE



# The City of Manassas Happenings

Find these events and more in the City of Manassas, Virginia. For more information go to [www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org).

Now - March - Ice Skating at the Harris Pavilion. For tickets or to rent the rink, visit [www.harris pavilion.com](http://www.harris pavilion.com)

Now - Dec. 4 - **Wild Webs Exhibit** at the ARTfactory

Now - Dec. 18 - **Gingerbread House Contest** - Want to compete? Apply before Nov. 25 at [visitmanassas.org](http://visitmanassas.org)

Dec. 3 beginning at 5:15 p.m. - **Santa Lights Manassas**

Dec. 5, 12 & 19 from 1 - 4 p.m. - **Merry Old Town** - free Sunday carriage rides, sparkling City lights and more

Dec. 4 at 10 a.m. - **75th Annual Greater Manassas Christmas Parade - Right Down Santa Claus Lane**

Dec. 9 - **An Evening for Educators** at the Manassas Museum. Call 703-257-8265 for information

Dec 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - **City of Manassas Holiday Market** - Come out for a day of last minute shopping for unique gifts at the Train Depot Lot.

Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m. - **Manassas Chorale "Sing Gloria!" Winter Concert** at the Hylton Performing Arts Center  
[www.manassaschorale.org](http://www.manassaschorale.org)

Dec. 12 from 1-4 p.m. - **Liberia Open House** hosted by the Museum Associates - 8601 Portner Ave.

Dec. 15 - 19 - **Winter Wonderland Train Show** at the ARTfactory. Dec. 15 - 17 from 5 to 8 p.m., Dec. 18 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Dec. 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Dec. 15 - Jan. 22 - **Off the Wall Art Exhibit/Competition** - High School students compete in this art show sponsored by Lockheed Martin.

Dec. 15 at 3 p.m. - **Stories of Preservation & Progress** with the Manassas Museum

Dec. 18 - March 26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - **Winter Farmers' Market** at the Prince William Street Commuter lot - 9024 Prince William Street

Dec. 19 from 1 to 4 p.m. - **Jolly Ol' Confections** - A Tasting event of Santa's Sweet Treats. \$10 cash (\$11 card) for unlimited tastings in Downtown

Dec. 25 - **Merry Christmas** - All trash and recycling collections will run on a regular schedule

Jan. 1, 2022 - **Happy New Year** - All trash and recycling collections will run on a regular schedule

Jan. 1, 2022 - **New parking district** for Georgetown South begins

Jan. 15 from 8 a.m. to noon - **Electronics Drop-off Day** at Public Works - 8500 Public Works Drive

OmniRide to Host Public Mobility Council Meetings in December. Visit [www.OmniRide.com](http://www.OmniRide.com) for more information.

## Give the Gift of Shopping

COVID-19 has taken a toll on everyone and small businesses took a big hit. In the City of Manassas we've worked hard to help our business community by expanding our support for Downtown events, providing COVID-relief grants, connecting businesses with federal resources, and more.

This holiday season, when you are thinking where to shop for that perfect gift, don't forget the small businesses in the area. They are recovering, but we can help by shopping small and shopping local.

If you would like to avoid the crowds and shop from home, think about giving a Heartbeat gift card. This card works at more than 25 small businesses within the City of Manassas. For a full list of stores, or to purchase a gift card, visit [manassasva.gov/gift](http://manassasva.gov/gift).



## Get Social!

Visit the City at [www.manassasva.gov](http://www.manassasva.gov)

[www.facebook.com/cityofmanassas](http://www.facebook.com/cityofmanassas)

[www.twitter.com/cityofmanassas](http://www.twitter.com/cityofmanassas)

[www.flickr.com/photos/cityofmanassas](http://www.flickr.com/photos/cityofmanassas)

[www.instagram.com/cityofmanassas](http://www.instagram.com/cityofmanassas)

[www.youtube.com/user/manassascityva](http://www.youtube.com/user/manassascityva)

To contact the City of Manassas Connection newsletter, email [pprince@manassasva.gov](mailto:pprince@manassasva.gov)

## City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

**City of Manassas Council**  
Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger

703-895-4485

**Vice Mayor**

Pamela J. Sebesky 571-330-5514  
Theresa Coates Ellis 571-247-6729  
Lynn Forkell Greene 703-291-1670  
Tom Osina 703-304-3984  
Ralph J. Smith 703-303-8530  
Mark D. Wolfe 703-257-1702

**City of Manassas School Board**

Chairman Suzanne W. Seaberg

571-377-7494

Christina S. Brooks 571-377-7491  
Tim Demeria 571-377-7492  
Carl Hollingsworth Jr. 571-377-7493  
Jill Spall 571-377-7497  
Lisa A. Stevens 571-377-7495  
Robyn Williams 571-377-7496